

CLAIMS

1. A method of generating a caricatured image, comprising the steps of:
storing image representations of subjects and corresponding respective
5 caricatured image representations of the subjects;
receiving an image representation of a new subject; and
generating a caricatured image representation of the new subject in dependence
on the stored image representations of the subjects and the received image
representation of the new subject.
10
2. A method of generating caricatured images, comprising the steps of:
storing image representations of subjects and corresponding respective
caricatured image representations of the subjects;
receiving an image representation of a new subject; and
15 generating replacement caricatured image representations of the subjects in
dependence on the stored image representations thereof and the received image
representation of the new subject.
3. A method according to claim 2, and further comprising the step of generating a
20 caricatured image representation of the new subject in dependence on the stored image
representations of the subjects and the received image representation of the new subject.
4. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the generating steps
comprise generating the caricatured image representation/s in weighted dependence on
25 the received image representation of the new subject, wherein a weighting factor
associated with the new image representation generally increases with time, and the
caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is
adapted.
- 30 5. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the subjects form a
closed group of subjects, and the method is performed whenever a new subject joins the
closed group.
6. A method of generating caricatured images, comprising the steps of:

storing image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

receiving a leave signal indicating a particular one or more of the subjects for which image representations are stored; and

- 5 generating replacement caricatured image representations in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects at least partially discounting the image representations of the indicated subjects.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the image representations of the indicated subjects are generally increasingly discounted over time in accordance with a
10 weighting factor, wherein the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

8. A method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the subjects form a closed group of
15 subjects, and the method is performed whenever one or more of the subjects leave the closed group.

9. A computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when it/they are executed by a computer system it/they cause/s the computer system to perform
20 the method of any of the preceding claims.

10. A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or at least one of the suite of computer programs according to claim 9.

- 25 11. A system for generating a caricatured image, comprising:
 storage means arranged in use to store image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;
 input means for receiving an image representation of a new subject; and
 processing means arranged in use to generate a caricatured image
30 representation of the new subject in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects and the received image representation of the new subject.

12. A system for generating caricatured images, comprising:
 storage means arranged in use to store image representations of subjects and
35 corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

input means for receiving an image representation of a new subject; and
processing means arranged in use to generate replacement caricatured image representations of the subjects in dependence on the stored image representations thereof and the received image representation of the new subject.

5

13. A system according to claim 12, wherein the processing means is further arranged to generate a caricatured image representation of the new subject in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects and the received image representation of the new subject.

10

14. A system according to any of claims 11 to 13, wherein the processing means is further arranged to generate the caricatured image representation/s in weighted dependence on the received image representation of the new subject, wherein a weighting factor associated with the new image representation generally increases with
15 time, and the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

15. A system according to any of claims 11 to 14, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the system is operated whenever a new subject joins the closed
20 group.

16. A system for generating caricatured images, comprising:

storage means arranged in use to store image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

25 means for receiving a leave signal indicating a particular one or more of the subjects for which image representations are stored; and

processing means arranged in use to generate replacement caricatured image representations in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects but at least partially discounting the image representations of the indicated subjects.

30

17. A system, according to claim 16, wherein the image representations of the indicated subjects are generally increasingly discounted over time in accordance with a weighting factor, wherein the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

35

18. A system according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the system is operated whenever one or more of the subjects leave the closed group.